



NWIWB briefs

Issue #6— January 2008

Over 40 Community Leaders Join MEP Effort in Gary...helping youth succeed

On Friday, January 18th, the Gary Education Leadership Council (GELC) held its first community leadership gathering to begin work on the Multiple Education Pathways (MEP) Blueprint program for the city. Funded by the Department of Labor, MEP provides an opportunity for cities to build a systematic strategy to address the needs of struggling students and dropouts. An important goal of developing the blueprint is to bring together an array of education and workforce assets and leverage resources to expand options or support new options that will help struggling students stay in school and then move them into further education or workforce training.

As a result of a U.S. Department of Labor-Employment grant, the City of Gary in partnership with the Gary School Corporation, the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board, and the Center of Workforce Innovations have undertaken the project of developing Gary's MEP blueprint. With the new council and many of those in attendance, they will look at examining and broadening traditional avenues, while developing new and innovative ways to soften the dropout rates in Gary. Keeping kids in school is definitely key to the program.



The meeting drew more than 40 leaders from government, corporate, education, community, and faith based industry. Chris Kingsley, from Brandeis University and Jobs for the Future, facilitated the visioning segment of the meeting. "This turnout has proven that the Northwest Indiana community is sincere in wanting to help our youth people have a better quality of life, said Linda Woloshansky, president of CWI and Regional Operator for the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board. "Mayor Clay and Dr. Steele-Agee are committed to MEP and we'll be there to support them every step of the way," she added.

For further information regarding Gary's MEP program or how your organization might help, contact Debra Irving-Holley at the Center of Workforce Innovations at 219-462-2940 or e-mail at dholley@innovativeworkforce.com.

Ever Wonder How the Big Guys Recruit?

Hiring and retaining good employees is critical to your company's success. But, finding that perfect staff person to fit your business needs is often challenging and could lead to an expense that may not get you results.

Recently, the area's WorkOne system was selected to help recruit and pre-screen close to 1,150 applicants for a local high profile steel company. WorkOne staff in Gary and Hammond entered those 1,150 into the state's job matching system for pre-screening and provided the steel company with 162 referrals for 13 various management and labor positions.

So, you figure that a high profile wealthy steel company pays big bucks to align itself with a recruiter or job search firm that has national notability? Well, this particular company aligned themselves with a regional workforce system (Gary and Hammond WorkOne) offering free services which got them results. In fact, WorkOne was recently called upon again by this company to help them implement another wave of recruitment and prescreening.

What's the moral of this HR story? Sometimes paying the big bucks doesn't actually pay.

Whether you're looking to recruit top talent, expand your staff's skills through education and training programs, or ease transition for laid-off workers, WorkOne has the tools, resources and expertise to help your HR department find the best solutions for your business. If a multi-billion dollar steel company relied on them, why wouldn't you?

For more information regarding area WorkOne offices visit www.nwiwb.org

Board Side with Michael R. Horton

Michael Horton has been the CEO of Michiana Resources, Inc. for the past 27 years. He's a graduate of Indiana University and currently serves as Treasurer of the Northwest Indiana Workforce Board.

Why did you agree to serve on the NWIWB?

I was asked by the Mayor of Michigan City to serve and have had a long time involvement with employment issues impacting citizens with disabilities.

...

What other organizations are you actively involved with?

Michigan City School Corporation Planning Team

...

Did your career go a different direction than you had initially planned?

My goal was to remain in direct service provision for life.

...

What do you feel is a critical issue that must be addressed in order to move our region forward on staying nationally and globally competitive?

Providing necessary skills training for our young people and providing educational environments that encourage learning.

Starke County a Top Leader in Private Investment Ratio

In the January 2008 issue of *Site Selection*, a publication of the Industrial Asset Management Council, they cite a recent annual report through the U.S. Commerce Department Economic Development Administration (EDA) that referred to private-sector investments related to EDA construction and revolving loan fund grants distributed in FY2002-2003. The top leaders in terms of realized ratio of private investment to EDA investment were:

Grantee	Location	Grant \$	Private Inv. \$	Ratio
Canton Municipal Utilities	Canton, MS	\$2 million	\$1.07 billion	536.3
Water works/sewer board	Montgomery, AL	\$2 million	\$750.2 million	375.1
City of Carrollton	Carrollton, TX	\$1.5 million	\$375 million	250
City of Athens	Athens, TN	\$650,000	\$90 million	138.5
City of Broken Bow	Broken Bow, OK	\$1.2 million	\$135 million	112.5
Madison County	Canton, MS	\$1 million	\$98.7 million	98.7
City of Commerce	Commerce, TX	\$300,000	\$27.3 million	91
Macon County	Red Boiling Springs, TX	\$1 million	\$84.4 million	84.4
Starke County	Knox, IN	\$1.3 million	\$94 million	73.1
City of Dubuque	Dubuque, IA	\$2 million	\$145.6 million	72.8

(Source: *Site Selection*-January 2008)

Staff Side

Helping Returning Vets Gain Employment—JOHN JACKSON has been hired by the Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI) as the Veteran Talent Gain Coordinator. Talent Gain uses web cameras between local WorkOne offices and pre-exit military transition centers, allowing employers to interview candidates prior to discharge. Talent Gain helps transitioning military personnel find civilian employment in advanced manufacturing and transportation-distribution-logistics (TDL) occupations. Jackson previously spent 37 years with U.S. Steel Corporation where he most recently served as the coordinator in pickle coil storage and held management positions in their slitting yards, sheet metal finishing division, and numerous warehouses. He's graduate of East Gary High School and served in the U.S. Army. To learn more about Talent Gain and hiring a veteran, contact Jackson directly at 219-462-2940 or e-mail at jjackson@innovativeworkforce.com

New TAG & WorkKeys® Consultant in Region—SANDRA ALVAREZ has assumed the position of Business Consultant with the Center of Workforce Innovations (CWI). She will work closely with the business community to promote and assist regional companies in accessing state Training Accelerator Grants (TAG), a funding opportunity to help them offset costs to train their workers, and for WorkKeys® Profiling which is a tool to improve hiring and retraining of the right candidates for positions. Alvarez previously served as a Workforce Associate with CWI and facilitated the Strategic Skills Initiative programs in Region 1. She attended Valparaiso University and Springfield College. To reach Alvarez regarding TAG and WorkKeys® call her directly at 219-204-2856 or e-mail at salvarez@innovativeworkforce.com

Region Workforce News Bites

Training Accelerator Grants (TAG) have been obtained by the following:

Current Technologies-Consortium #3 \$86,995

Arcelor Mittal \$170,000

To find out if your company qualifies for one of these state funded employee training grants, contact local TAG Business Consultant, Sandra Alvarez at 219-204-2856 or e-mail at salvarez@innovativeworkforce.com

Dates to Remember

State of the Workforce Wednesday, February 20, 2008
Report-Press Conference 8:00-9:30 a.m.
Sand Creek Country Club-Chesterton

NWIWB Board Meeting Thursday, February 21, 2008
2:00—4:00 p.m.
Purdue Academic Center

DATA

Labor Market Profile

December 2007 Unemployment Rates

United States	4.8
Indiana	4.4
Jasper Co.	4.8
Lake Co.	4.9
LaPorte Co.	5.1
Newton Co.	5.1
Porter Co.	3.7
Pulaski Co.	4.2
Starke Co.	5.9